

Docket AUS9-2001-0157-US1

Appl. No.: 09/875,955

Filed: June 7, 2001

REMARKS

Informalities. The Office action objects to improper format for claiming in the alternative regarding claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 14, 18, 24, 26, 30, 36, 37, and 41. Applicant has accordingly amended the claims to set out affirmative steps conjoined by "and."

The Office action objects to misspelling of "window" in claims 2, 6, 15, 20, 21, 27, 32 and 38. Applicant has amended the claims to correct the spelling.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, 9-14, 18-26, 30-37 and 41. Claims 1-5, 9-14, 18-26, 30-37 and 41 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) based on Bates. Applicant contends that claims 10 and 33 are patentably distinct as originally submitted. Also, Applicant herein amends claims 1, 19 and 31 to overcome their rejection, incorporating limitations from, and correspondingly canceling claims 2, 20 and 32, respectively.

To particularly point out a distinction of the present invention, the amendment to claims 1, 19 and 31 includes new language about the variable step size *adjusting responsive to the objects* so as to be of such a size that the window steps down to a next position in which the window displays a next portion of the information beginning at the top of a next object after the current bottom-most object. In presenting the new claim language no new matter is added, since the original specification provides support for the claim language.¹

Claims 1, 19 and 31. Bates concerns issues that arise because of conventional linear mapping between a scroll bar and a document shown in a window for a graphical user interface. According to one aspect, Bates teaches that a scroll bar may be configured to vary the relative scroll rate of a portion of a document in order to emphasize that portion relative to other portions.²

In contrast, amended claim 1, for example, states that for information shown in the window in a current position in which a first portion of the information is displayed beginning at the top of the window and ending at the bottom of the window, the claimed inventive method includes scrolling downward, wherein the information includes a succession of objects and if in the current position of the window an object is a bottom-most one of the objects and has a bottom end shown, then the variable step size automatically adjusts so as to be of such a size that the window steps down to a next position wherein the window displays a next portion of the

¹ FIG's 6A and 6B; page 10, line 7 - page 11, line 5.

² Column 1, line 58, through column 2, line 32.

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information beginning at the top of a next object after the current bottom-most object. Claims 19 and 31 have similar limitations, steps or elements. Bates does not teach or suggest this.

The Office action points out that Bates teaches about creation of boundaries and teaches about the ability to locate the position of a window at a next defined boundary, contending that this anticipates a window stepping down to a next position that begins at the top of the next object after the current, bottom-most object. Applicant acknowledges that Bates teaches about creating boundaries. However, this in no way teaches or suggests what is claimed in the present invention.

With regard to a document displayed in a window, Bates teaches that a boundary is a defined position within the document.³ Bates teaches that a boundary may be defined by the user pointing to a location within the document, by the creator of the document selecting portions of the document to emphasize, or automatically in response to navigation history.⁴ None of this mentions objects within the information, and does not even suggest that the information displayed in a window includes a succession of objects, that if an object is a bottom-most one of the objects in the current position of the window, and that if the object has a bottom end shown in the current position of the window, then the context-sensitive, variable step size automatically adjusts so as to be of such a size that the window steps down to a next position wherein the window displays a next portion of the information beginning at the top of a next object after the current bottom-most object, as claimed.

The Office action contends that Bates teaches about the ability to locate the position of a window at a next defined boundary, contending that this anticipates a window stepping down to a next position that begins at the top of the next object after a current, bottom-most object. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The cited teaching from Bates concerns a routine for calculating a document position that corresponds to a current slider position.⁵ The cited passage appears to concern saving data about boundary locations in a boundary data structure, and does not concern a window stepping down to a next position that begins at the top of the next object after the current, bottom-most object. All the more certainly it does not concern a variable step size

³ Column 8, lines 4-7 ("Generally, the regions of a non-linear scroll bar may be defined by a plurality of boundaries. Each boundary has associated therewith both a position on the scroll bar and a position in the document.").

⁴ Column 9, lines 7 through 60.

⁵ Column 10, lines 18 through 22.

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automatically adjusting itself so as to be of such a size that the window steps down to a next position that begins at the top of a next object after the current bottom-most object, as per the amended claims.

This particular claimed context-sensitive stepping from one window position to another corresponds to the embodiment set out in the algorithm shown in FIG. 6A of the application. That is, in terms of the positions shown in FIG. 2A, according to this alternative window 115 would step from "position 1," in which paragraph 2 is the current bottom-most object and has its bottom end shown, to a position (not shown in FIG. 2B) in which the object "paragraph 3" would be at the top of window 115. See FIG. 6A, logic block 615. Applicant contends that for at least the above reasons claims 1, 19 and 31, as amended, are patentably distinct.

Claims 3-9 and 21-30. Applicant also contends that claims 3-9 and 21-30, which depend upon claims 1 and 19, respectively, are patentably distinct at least because they depend upon patentably distinct base claims.

Claims 10 and 33. Applicant contends that claims 10 and 33 are patentably distinct as originally submitted. The Office action's contention regarding claims 10 and 33 are discussed above. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these contentions. Specifically, the Office action contends that Bates teaches about a window stepping down to a next position that has a certain relation to a next object after the current object. However, as discussed herein above, the cited passage concerns a routine for calculating a document position that corresponds to a current slider position,⁶ and appears to concern saving data about boundary locations in a boundary data structure.

These teachings of Bates do not concern a window stepping down to a next position that begins at a certain position relative to a next object after a current object. All the more certainly they do not concern a window scrolling downward in a context-sensitive mode from a current position in which there is a top-most object, including and a bottom-most end that is visible in the window, and stepping down to a next position that begins at the top of a next object after the current top-most object, as claimed.

This particular claimed context-sensitive stepping from one window position to another corresponds to the embodiment set out in the algorithm shown in FIG. 6B of the application.

⁶ Column 10, lines 18 through 22.

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That is, in terms of the positions shown in FIG. 2A, according to this alternative, window 115 is shown in position 1 with paragraph 1 as the top-most object, which has its bottom end shown. Next, the window steps to position 2. This step is by a variable amount that is sensitive to the paragraphs shown in position 1. In position 2, paragraph 2 (the next object after paragraph 1) is now the top-most object.

Nor do Bates's teachings concern the window scrolling downward in a context-sensitive mode from a current position, in which the top-most object has a bottom-most sub-object and is cut off at the bottom of the window, to a next position that begins at the top of the current bottom-most sub-object, as claimed. This claimed feature is illustrated, for example, in FIG. 3B. According to this alternative, window 115 is shown in position 302 with paragraph 13 as the top-most object, which does not have its bottom end shown, i.e., paragraph 13, the top-most object is cut off at the bottom of the window. Next, the window steps to position 303. This step is by a variable amount that is sensitive to the paragraph 13 shown in position 302. In position 302, a sub-object, the sentence beginning at line 333, is at the bottom of the window 115. In position 303 the sentence is at the top of the window 115, as per the claim.

Applicant contends that for at least the above reasons claims 10 and 33 are patentably distinct.

Claims 11-18 and 34-41. Applicant also contends that claims 11-18 and 34-41, which depend upon claims 10 and 33, respectively, are patentably distinct at least because they depend upon patentably distinct base claims.

Rejection of Claims 6-8, 15-17, 27-29 and 38-40. Claims 6-8, 15-17, 27-29 and 38-40 are rejected based on 35 USC 103(a) in view of the combination of Bates and Knowlton. Applicant contends that the subject claims are patentably distinct at least because they depend upon patentably distinct base claims. Applicant contends further that the subject claims are patentably distinct for the following additional reasons.

The present invention teaches at page 9, lines 7 - 20, that if context sensitive scrolling has been selected scrolling occurs by a variable scrolling step, which may even include scrolling by dragging the slider. Thus, according to an embodiment for context sensitive scrolling the window does not move continuously through the document. For example, if the pointer drags the slider downward a vertical distance that is many times greater than the vertical length of the window,

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window, the window steps down through the document numerous times, pausing at least briefly after each step to display the information at the appropriate contextually-determined point. Thus, even under pointer control, scrolling is by discrete steps and includes automatic pauses. The speed and extent of scrolling affects the duration of the pauses. If the scrolling is slow, e.g., the slider is dragged slowly, the pauses are long, but if the scrolling is fast the pauses are more brief. If the slider is dragged or autoscrolled a shorter distance the pauses are longer, but if the slider is dragged or autoscrolled a longer distance the pauses are more brief. Claims 6-8, 15-17, 27-29 and 38-40 particularly point out these aspects of the invention.

The Office action contends that Knowlton in combination with Bates teaches or suggests these aspects. Applicant respectfully disagrees. What Knowlton teaches is that a representation of a book is shown in a window having the appearance of being open to a certain page and that the user may cause the pages of the book to appear to turn ("flip") by moving a cursor across the represented pages of the book.⁷ The rate at which the pages appear to be turned may be determined by the user selecting among flip-rate icons.⁸

In contrast, the present invention claims that a *window steps down* through the information and that *the window stepping pauses* to display the information after each step. Claims 6, 15, 27 and 38. Knowlton does not teach that the *window* steps down through the information, but rather that the appearance of the book stays in the window and the appearance of the book changes in the window as pages flip in the book.⁹ And the "pausing" taught by Knowlton is not pausing between window steps, but rather between page flips. Also, the present invention claims that the window step pausing is as a result of a commanded *scrolling movement exceeding a single scrolling step size*, which step size, as claimed in the base claim, is determined responsive to context. Knowlton does not teach about step sizes that are determined responsive to context of the information being scrolled.

Also, in claims 7, 16, 28 and 39 the present invention claims that the pauses are more brief for a larger commanded scrolling movement than for a smaller scrolling movement. Knowlton merely teaches that a user selects a faster or slower flipping rate. This does not relate at all to a larger or smaller commanded scrolling movement.

⁷ Col. 7, lines 50-65.

⁸ Col. 9, lines 13-32 ("In the preferred embodiment as illustrated in FIGS. 2A-2D, the flipping rate is user selectable through selection icons 47 labeled "high" to "low" under the heading "slew speed.").

⁹ See, e.g., FIG's 2A-2E

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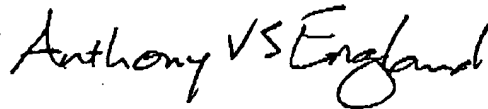
PRIOR ART OF RECORD

Applicant has reviewed the prior art of record cited by but not relied upon by Examiner, and asserts that the invention is patentably distinct.

REQUESTED ACTION

Applicant contends that the invention as claimed in accordance with amendments submitted herein is patentably distinct, and hereby requests that Examiner grant allowance and prompt passage of the application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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